



LITTLETON

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Littleton is a rural industrial town on the outer edge of suburban Boston. Part of the town was allocated as an Indian preserve known as the Nashoba Indian Praying Town. Settlement of Littleton was delayed by the frontier wars until the early 18th century when intense competition occurred over Indian lands abandoned when natives were deported to Deer Island during King Philip's war. The town eventually developed an upland farming economy with grazing, orchards and some seasonal lumbering. By the 19th century some of the finest apple orchards in the state were supplying town cider mills which in turn shipped their product to Boston. The cider factory, which also began making vinegar, expanded to become the modern Very Fine Apple Products plant. In the 20th century, clay deposits near the railroad depot became the basis for the U.S. Brick and Tile Company.

The town remains a significantly agricultural community with poultry farms, dairies and orchards and has preserved several 18th century center-chimney houses and unique brick cottages. Recent development has been primarily suburban, but much of the community has retained its original character.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Ayer and Harvard on the west, Groton on the northwest, Westford on the northeast, Acton on the southeast, and Boxborough on the south. Littleton is about 12 miles south of Lowell, 20 miles east of Fitchburg, 26 miles northwest of Boston, and 215 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 17.55 sq. miles

Land Area: 16.62 sq. miles

Population: 7,051

Density: 424 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Westford, Ayer

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 952-2314

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1715

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,403		
Democrats	962	21.8	%
Republicans	615	14.0	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,826	64.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Littleton town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	8,184	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	8,184	100.0
Male.....	3,925	48.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	79	1.0
Female.....	4,259	52.0	Mexican.....	22	0.3
Under 5 years.....	671	8.2	Puerto Rican.....	25	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	699	8.5	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	585	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	29	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	388	4.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	8,105	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	233	2.8	White alone.....	7,848	95.9
25 to 34 years.....	980	12.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,721	21.0	Total population.....	8,184	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,195	14.6	In households.....	8,065	98.5
55 to 59 years.....	436	5.3	Householder.....	2,960	36.2
60 to 64 years.....	311	3.8	Spouse.....	1,912	23.4
65 to 74 years.....	485	5.9	Child.....	2,596	31.7
75 to 84 years.....	339	4.1	Own child under 18 years.....	2,099	25.6
85 years and over.....	141	1.7	Other relatives.....	286	3.5
Median age (years).....	37.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	100	1.2
18 years and over.....	5,965	72.9	Nonrelatives.....	311	3.8
Male.....	2,873	35.1	Unmarried partner.....	137	1.7
Female.....	3,092	37.8	In group quarters.....	119	1.5
21 years and over.....	5,791	70.8	Institutionalized population.....	97	1.2
62 years and over.....	1,154	14.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	22	0.3
65 years and over.....	965	11.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	396	4.8	Total households.....	2,960	100.0
Female.....	569	7.0	Family households (families).....	2,217	74.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,119	37.8
One race.....	8,100	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,912	64.6
White.....	7,897	96.5	With own children under 18 years.....	972	32.8
Black or African American.....	28	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	227	7.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	106	3.6
Asian.....	140	1.7	Nonfamily households.....	743	25.1
Asian Indian.....	34	0.4	Householder living alone.....	580	19.6
Chinese.....	63	0.8	Householder 65 years and over.....	242	8.2
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,178	39.8
Japanese.....	7	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	643	21.7
Korean.....	16	0.2	Average household size.....	2.72	(X)
Vietnamese.....	14	0.2	Average family size.....	3.16	(X)
Other Asian ¹	5	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	3,055	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,960	96.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	95	3.1
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	37	1.2
Some other race.....	27	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	84	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,960	100.0
White.....	7,971	97.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,461	83.1
Black or African American.....	50	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	499	16.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	34	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.89	(X)
Asian.....	168	2.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	52	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	68
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	8
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Littleton is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2, which runs E-W across northern Massachusetts, 110, and 119, and Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston. Travel time: 55-62 minutes; 40 MBTA parking spaces. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Littleton is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging. Yankee Bus Lines provides commuter service M-F to South Station and two downtown locations in Boston; departing from Littleton at 6:45am and from South Station at 4:45pm.

Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511' and 3,502' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. The Shirley Airport, a privately owned public service facility located 1 mi. SW of town, has a 3,250'x 55' asphalt runway with a copter approach.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Littleton House Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.